

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Ladant et al. ) Group Art Unit for parent application:  
) 1645  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned )  
) Examiner in parent application: Zeman  
Filed: Concurrently herewith )  
)  
For: BACTERIAL MULTI-HYBRID )  
SYSTEM AND APPLICATIONS )  
THEREOF )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please delete the first paragraph of page 1, and insert the following paragraph  
therefor:

This regular U.S. application is a division of U.S. Application Serial No.  
09/203,681 filed December 1, 1998, and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional patent  
application serial No. 60/067,308, filed December 4, 1997, the entire disclosure of each  
of which is relied upon and incorporated by reference herein.